

Day-by-Day Account of DA's Probe

It has been a month since the States-Item broke the story on District Attorney Jim Garrison's new probe into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Since Feb. 17, there have been almost daily developments in the investigation. The case has been headlined in newspapers around the world.

Here is a look backward at some of the salient events in the order that they happened:

FEB. 17, 1967 — The New Orleans States-Item reveals in a front page story that Garrison is conducting an investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Garrison says that he has not read the story even though it was offered to him to read and that he assumes it is based on unreliable information.

David W. Ferrie, a central figure in the probe calls the States-Item and an interview is arranged.

FEB. 18, 1967 — The States-Item publishes an account of the interview with Ferrie during which he said that a member of the DA's staff told him Garrison positively had uncovered a New Orleans plot to murder the President.

A second story in the States-Item reveals that Garrison and his staff had combed the Miami area for a Cuban, described as physically powerful and dangerous, in connection with the investigation.

Late in the day, Garrison admits he is conducting an investigation and says he will make arrests.

Newsman begin pouring into New Orleans from around the

country and from a number of foreign countries.

FEB. 19, 1967 — In San Diego, Calif., Melvin Belli, who defended Jack Ruby, said he does not believe there was a conspiracy to kill the President. (Ruby was the slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald, the man named by the Warren Commission as President Kennedy's assassin.) Belli said that Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald were in New Orleans at the same time but that this was a coincidence.

FEB. 20, 1967 — A Parish Prison inmate linked to the investigation, Miguel Torres, declines to be moved to a private cell despite assertions by Garrison that the lives of some witnesses are in danger.

In Miami, a Cuban exile, Bernardo Torres, who helped to guard Kennedy once and who has been working with Garrison on the probe, said that when Garrison's investigation is related in whole "the Warren Report and the FBI report (on the assassination) will crumble."

In Washington, Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., says that Garrison should forward his findings to the U.S. Attorney General who could then convey them to President Johnson. Garrison replies: "I am running this investigation, not the President, not the attorney general."

Manuel Gil, New Orleans delegate to the Miami-based Movimiento Insurreccional de Recuperacion Revolucionaria asserts that "the hand of Castro was directly behind the suspected plot."

In Baton Rouge, Gov. John J. McKeithen offers state cooperation.

Garrison holds a news conference at the Fontainebleau Hotel and bars representatives of the States-Item and The Times-Picayune. During the press conference, he states that the investigation has been slowed down by the publicity.

FEB. 21, 1967—Sen. Russell B. Long says in Washington he is convinced that Garrison has "some information the Warren Commission didn't have" about a possible conspiracy to assassinate the president. Long previously had expressed the opinion that the commission's report was "not conclusive in some

respects."

Garrison is quiet.

FEB. 22, 1967—David Ferrie is found dead in his apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy. Ferrie, a free-lance pilot, is called "one of history's most important figures," by Garrison. A note found indicates possible suicide.

FEB. 23, 1967 — Dr. Ronald A. Welsh, who performed the autopsy on David Ferrie's body says that anatomical findings indicate that Ferrie did not commit suicide, but died of a berry aneurysm, a ruptured blood vessel at the base of the brain.

FEB. 24, 1967—Orleans Parish Coroner Nicholas J. Chetta announces that results of toxicological tests indicate that Ferrie died of natural causes, but Dr. Chetta postpones formal classification of the death.

Garrison announces he has "positively solved the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and will arrest every individual involved — in the course of time."

Joseph M. Rault Jr., head of a committee called "Truth and Consequences Inc.", announces that 50 prominent New Orleanians have pledged financial support of Garrison's investigation.

FEB. 25, 1967—Members of the New Orleans Cuban community express some feelings of indignation about the questioning of anti-Castro Cubans in connection with the investigation.

FEB. 26, 1967—A connection between Ferrie and Sergio Arcacha Smith, former leader of a Cuban liberation group who trained men for the Bay of Pigs invasion, is reported. Agents of Garrison's office seek to question Arcacha, but he refuses unless Dallas authorities can sit in on the interrogation. Garrison's men refuse.

FEB. 27, 1967—Ferrie's body has not been claimed, the coroner announces.

FEB. 28, 1967—Coroner rules Ferrie's death natural and reveals contents of note found in Ferrie's apartment.

MARCH 1, 1967—Ferrie is laid to rest with only two mourners present.

Clay L. Shaw, former managing director of the Inter-

national Trade Mart, and James R. Lewallen, a former roommate of Ferrie's, are subpoenaed for questioning by the DA.

Later in the day, Shaw is arrested and booked with participating in a conspiracy to murder the President.

Shaw's French Quarter home is searched by the DA's staff and cartons of his personal belongings are carted off to the DA's office.

Garrison forecasts more arrests.

MARCH 2 — Shaw meets with newsmen and proclaims his innocence.

Meantime, offers of assistance from around the world are coming to Shaw.

Dean Adams Andrews Jr., who told the Warren Commission a man named Clay Bertrand called him after the assassination and asked him to defend Oswald, is subpoenaed for questioning. Garrison claims Shaw and Bertrand are the same.

Andrews says he does not know if Shaw and Bertrand are the same person.

Shaw says he has never used an alias.

The DA asks for a preliminary hearing in the Shaw case, a surprise move since preliminary hearings ordinarily are requested by the defense.

MARCH 3, 1967 — A fourth person, Dante Marachini, is subpoenaed for questioning. Marachini, a Michoud worker, says he knows nothing.

MARCH 4, 1967 — Garrison is reported searching for a group of men involved in a 1963 FBI raid on a cache of war materials in Lacombe.

MARCH 6, 1967 — J. B. Dauenhauer, member of the trade mart staff, is subpoenaed for questioning.

MARCH 7, 1967—An inmate in Parish Prison, who claims he knew both Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby in Illinois, is removed from prison for a second time for questioning.

MARCH 8, 1967—Shaw's attorneys lose bid to have charges dismissed.

MARCH 9, 1967 — Garrison moves his probe before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury and Dean Andrews appears before the jury.

MARCH 10, 1967—Newsmen are issued strict rules for

covering a preliminary hearing for Clay Shaw. The hearing is set for March 14 before a three-judge panel—Criminal District Court Judges Bernard J. Bagert, Malcolm V. O'Hara and Mat-

thew S. Braniff.

MARCH 11, 1967—Preliminary hearing is explained as an opportunity for the DA to show that he has enough evidence to hold Shaw for trial.

MARCH 13, 1967—Raymon Cummings, a Dallas taxicab driver, arrives in New Orleans. Cummings says he drove Oswald, Ferrie and a third person to Ruby's Dallas night club in early 1963. New motions by defense attorneys for Shaw are turned down.

MARCH 14, 1967—The preliminary hearing opens and is covered by news representatives from all over the world. Garrison reveals the name of his mystery witness, Perry Raymond Russo, who testified that he overheard Leon Oswald, Clem Bertrand and Ferrie plotting to kill the President in September of 1963. Russo identifies Shaw as the man he knew as Clem Bertrand.

The DA's staff tells the court it has five witnesses ready to testify: Dr. Chetta; Dr. Esmond Fatter, a private physician; Det. Frank Haywood of the police force; John F. Reilly, a photographer for the Police Bureau of Identification; Peter Schuster, an investigator - photographer for the coroner's office.

James R. Lipscombe is arrested for making threatening telephone calls.

It is learned that a gun was found hidden in the parking lot used by Shaw across from the courthouse.

MARCH 15, 1967—Attorney F. Irvin Dymond cross-examines Russo. Also called to court are Endicott A. Batchelder, registrar for Tulane University; Frank J. Stass, registrar for Tulane University; James Kenney, agency director of the Equitable Life Assurance Society which employs Russo; Dean A. E. Papale of Loyola University

School of Law, and representatives of two television stations which interviewed Russo.

MARCH 16, 1967—The hearing continues; James Lewallen is subpoenaed.

The grand jury resumes its look at Garrison's probe and subpoenas Dean Andrews for a second time and a new witness in the case, Gordon Novel, who tells the States-Item. Garrison wants to talk to him about some 1961 events involving former Cuban exile leader Sergio Arcacha.

Andrews is indicted for perjury.

MARCH 17 — The three-judge panel rules that the DA has presented enough evidence to warrant a trial and Shaw becomes the first man to be ordered to trial in the death of President Kennedy.

TODAY — Dean Andrews' case is allotted to Criminal District Court Judge Frank J. Shea.